## Medicare Beneficiary Alert: **Protect Your Information!**



HEALTH INSURANCE

Starting April 2018, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin issuing and mailing new Medicare cards, that will replace your old cards with social security numbers. This is called the **Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI)**.

## This is to protect **YOU** from Identity Theft and Fraud.

Here is what you need to know: Fraudsters are targeting you with phone calls pretending to be from Medicare/the Federal Government claiming they need to verify your personal information before they can issue you a new card.

**Do NOT** provide this Information.

This is a form of **IDENTITY THEFT**.

Medicare will <u>never</u> call you. Medicare cards will be mailed out to you <u>automatically</u> for <u>free</u>.

## What do I do if I receive a suspicious call or email?

- 1. Let them leave a message DO NOT ANSWER!
- 2. If you take a call **DO NOT** give any personal information, call Medicare immediately at **1-800-633-4227**
- 3. Rest assured that CMS will be working through a lengthy transition period from April 1, 2018 December 31, 2019 to sort through problems with this initiative.
- 4. Report any suspicions of fraud to:
  - Medicare: 1-800-633-4227 or www.mymedicare.gov
  - Office of the Inspector General: 1-800-447-8477 or spoof@oig.hhs.gov (https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/consumer-alerts/alerts/phone-scam.asp)
  - Senior Medicare Patrol: www.smpresource.org
  - Federal Trade Commission: 1-877-382-4357

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